



## Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

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<b>Event Name</b>	Potential Heavy Rainfall Event
<b>Date</b>	3/20/15
<b>Time</b>	1600
<b>Operational Period</b>	3/20/15
<b>Report Number</b>	1

<b>Regions Affected</b>	
<b>DPS Regions Affected</b>	
<b>DDCs Active</b>	1,2,3,4,6

### STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:

The State Operations Center (SOC) increased its activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) effective at noon, Friday, March 20, 2015 for a partial activation, due to a potential heavy rainfall event. The following agencies were called to the State Operations Center (SOC) for activation: Texas Task Force 1 (TEEX), Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Military Forces, and American Red Cross.

A weak cold front tracked through the Panhandle and Red River areas before stalling. South of this front, low level southerly winds continued to spread low level moisture across the area. With abundant moisture in place, it has set the stage for a significant rain event across Texas starting late Friday and should continue into the weekend. As the upper level storm begins a slow eastward track, complexes of thunderstorms should form ahead of it. These thunderstorm complexes should tap into the deep moisture and produce locally heavy rainfall, mainly along the same areas impacted by recent rain events. Some areas could see storm totals over 3-4 inches, with locally higher amounts possible. **Flash Flood Watches** have been issued for later today through Saturday across most of Southwest, South, Central, and Southeast Texas. Tonight, widespread rainfall is expected, especially over South Central and Southeast Texas, and heavy rain is forecast to continue across much of the state on Saturday. As the upper level storm exits the area later Sunday, dry weather should return through the middle of next week.



## Current Watches/Warnings

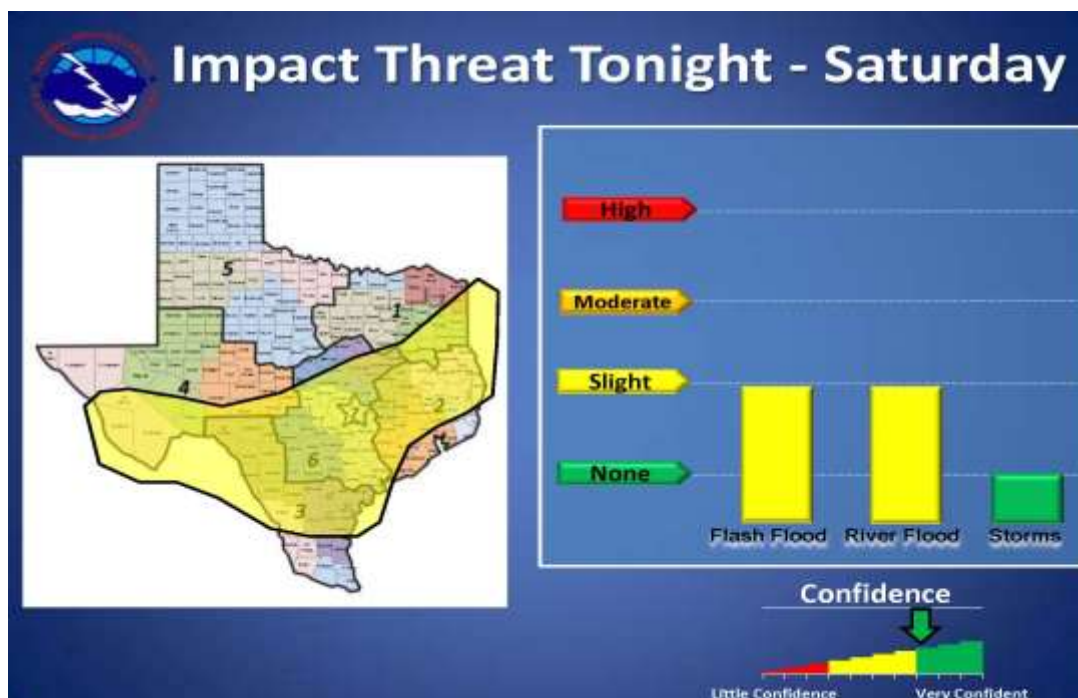


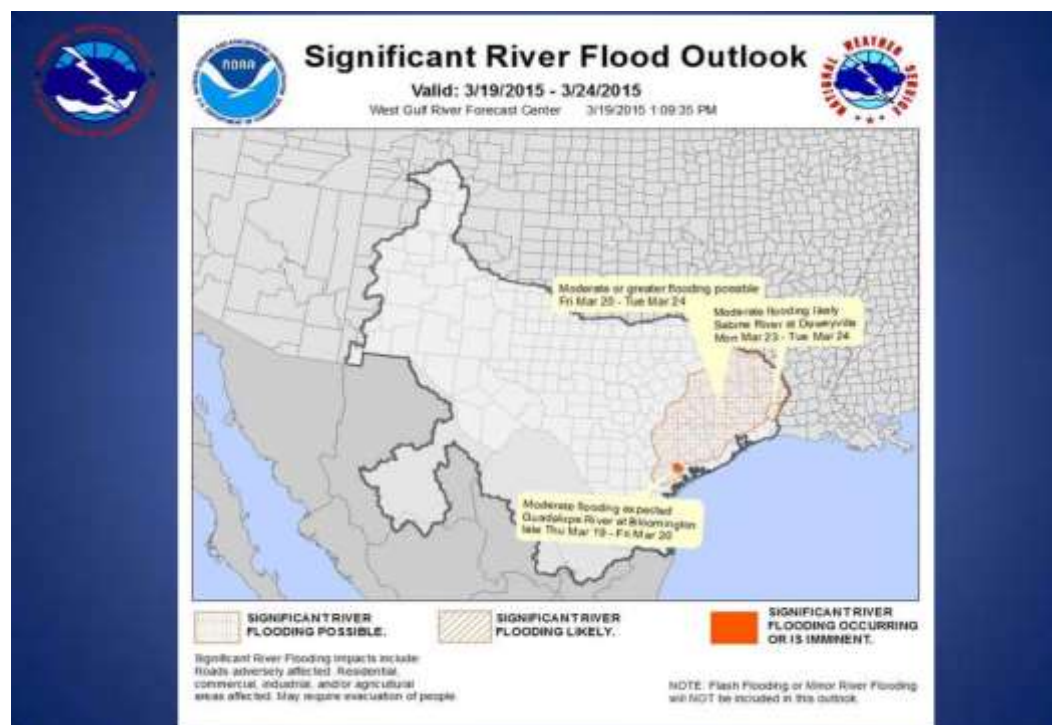
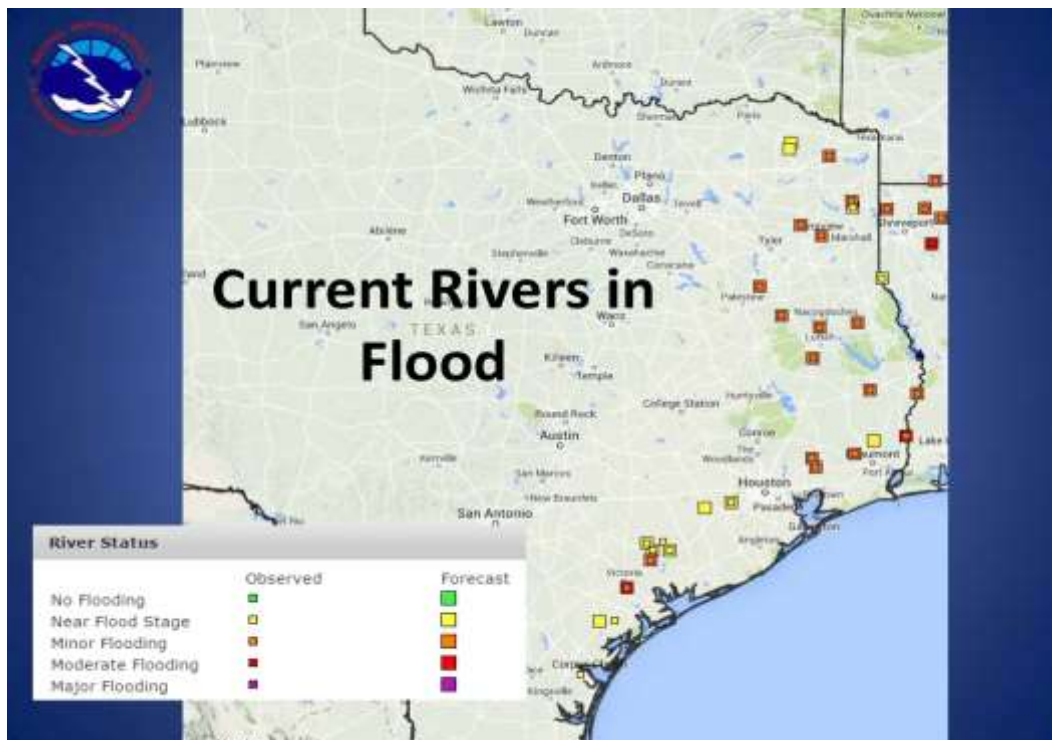
## Today's Rainfall – through Saturday Morning











## OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

### Region 1

**NWS Fort Worth:** More heavy rainfall is expected across parts of North Texas through the first half of the weekend. A cold front is moving through the region now and will stall over the Hill Country tonight. Low level moisture will increase and numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are expected along the stalled frontal boundary. Most of the heavy rainfall will be confined to the southern portions of North Texas through Saturday night. A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect for areas from Killeen to Mexia to Palestine through Saturday night. A stalled frontal boundary across Central Texas will help generate numerous showers and a few thunderstorms later tonight through early Sunday. Rainfall amounts are expected to be highest in an area from Killeen to Mexia to Palestine. Rainfall amounts of 1-3 inches can be expected with locally heavier amounts. Lighter amounts will fall to the north.

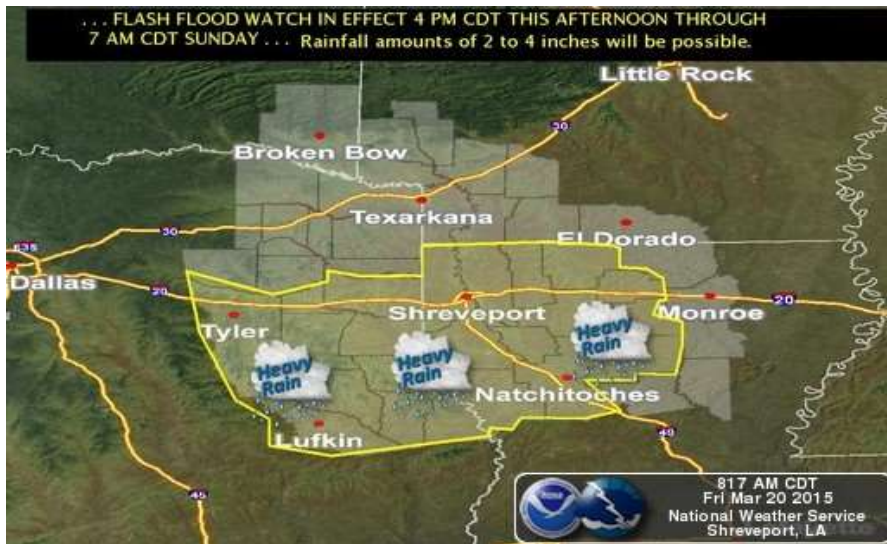






**NWS Shreveport:** An upper level trough currently across the Baja and Old Mexico will begin moving slowly to the north and east into the Texas Hill Country by Saturday Night. The strength of this upper trough is allowing for deep tropical moisture from the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico to infiltrate the region from the west and south. Rainfall will likely become excessive late tonight along and south of the IH20 Corridor of Northeast Texas and northern Louisiana. This excessive heavy rainfall is expected to continue throughout the day Saturday into Saturday Night before moving east of the region during the day Sunday. Because of very saturated soils, area rivers and lakes already at high levels from previous rainfall, a **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect for portions of Northeast Texas, Deep East Texas and northwest Louisiana from 4PM tonight through 7AM Sunday morning.





### Region 3

**NWS Brownsville:** The combination of an upper level disturbance and plenty of moisture will provide another round of heavy rains for Deep South Texas this weekend. The heaviest rain is forecast to fall in the Upper Valley and Brush Country, where heavy rain has already recently fallen. There is also a risk of a few strong to severe storms. As moisture surges across the area and an upper low moves closer to the region, showers and thunderstorms will be on the increase today. Rain chances will increase from west to east throughout the day, with the greatest chances for rain for those areas west of Highway 281. Near normal temperatures are expected today, with highs pushing into the upper 70s and lower 80s for the inland areas and into the lower 70s for those areas right along the coast. Mostly cloudy skies will prevail along with southeast winds of 10 to 15 mph.

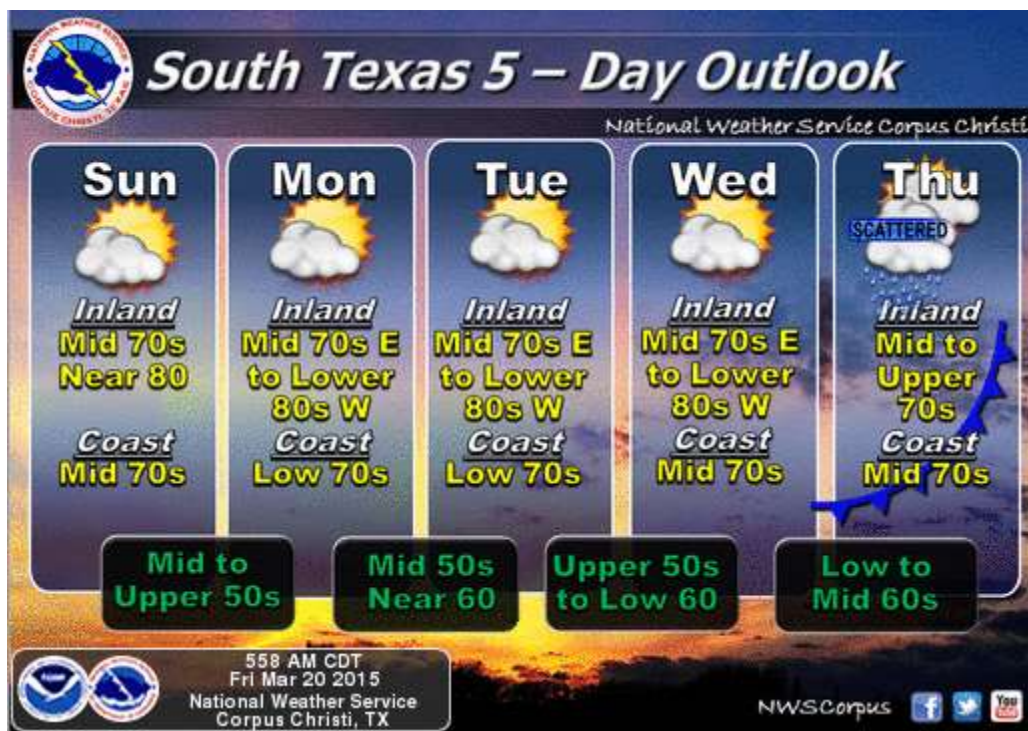






**NWS Corpus Christi:** An upper disturbance moving in from the west will increase rain chances from west to east today, with showers and thunderstorms expected late this morning into the afternoon for the Brush Country. Coastal areas will likely see rain developing well late in the day into tonight. Morning fog along the coast is expected to lift by midmorning. Dense fog across the bays and nearshore waters is expected to last through tonight. Expect drier conditions Sunday through the middle of next week, with near seasonal temperatures especially during the day. Another front on Thursday could bring some rain with the boundary. The five-day outlook for Sunday through Thursday is depicted in the third graphic that follows.

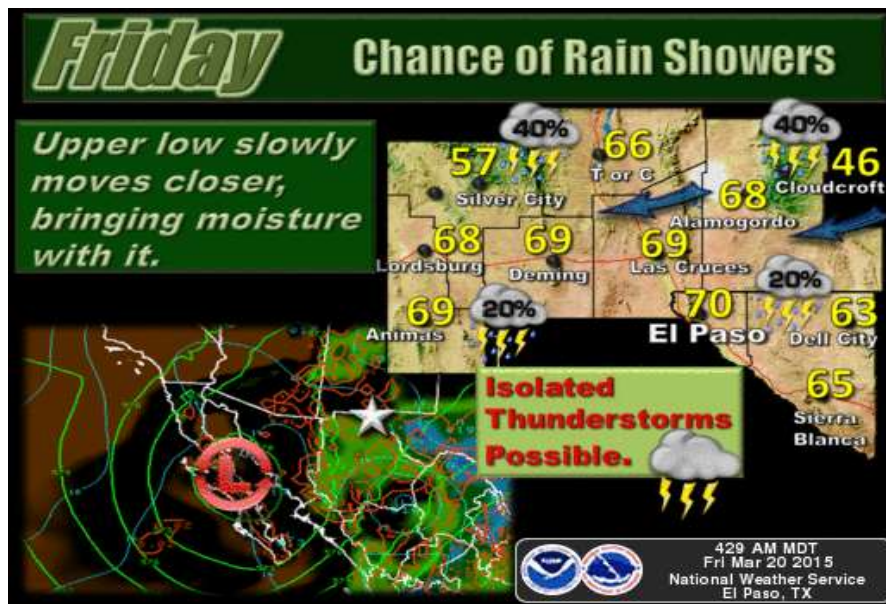




#### Region 4

**NWS El Paso:** An upper level low over the central Baja Peninsula will move to south of Arizona this afternoon. This will continue feeding some moisture to the area for isolated showers. Increasing moisture from the southeast this afternoon and evening will increase the coverage of showers and thunderstorms. High temperatures will be near normal.

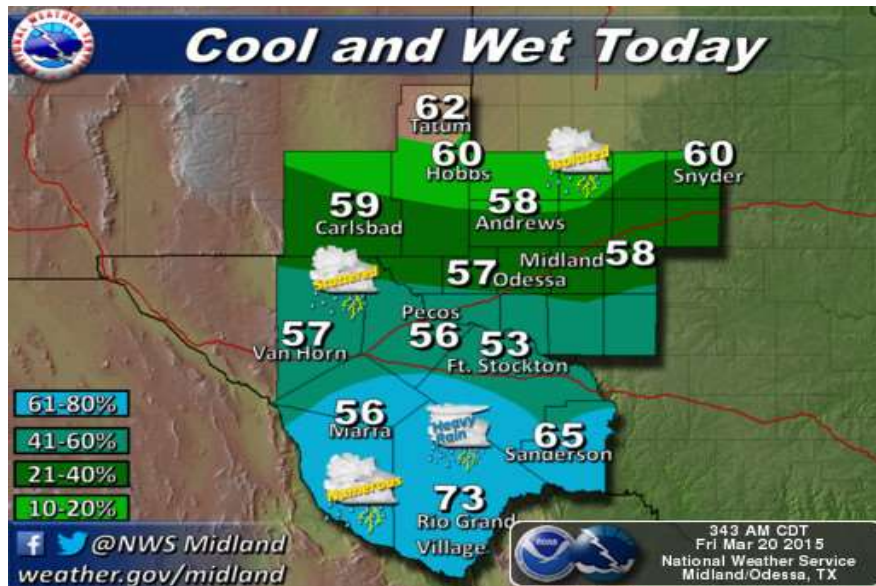




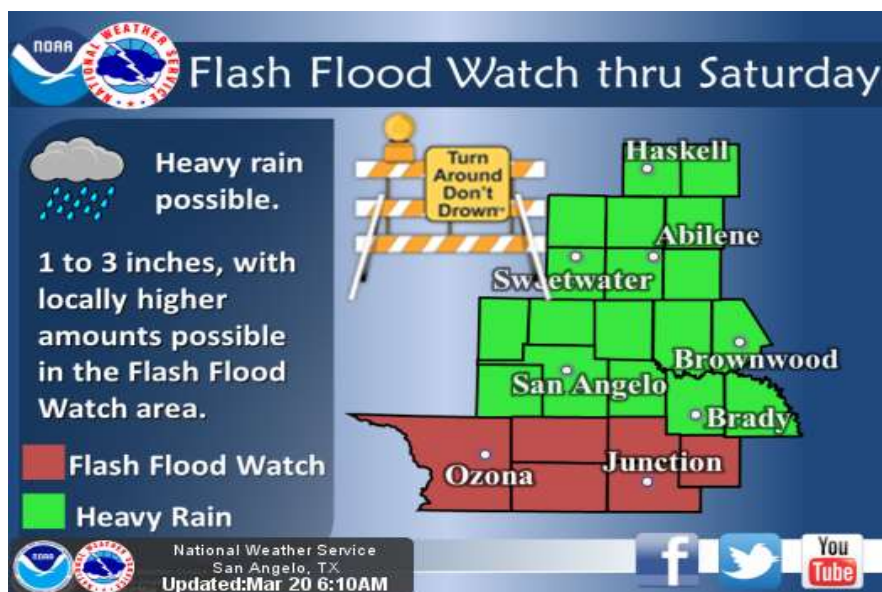
**NWS Midland/Odessa:** A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect from midnight tonight through Saturday for the Davis and Apache Mountains, Marfa and Stockton Plateaus, Presidio Valley, Big Bend, and Terrell County. Thunderstorms are likely today and tonight, mainly along and south of IH10. Any storms that do develop will be accompanied by frequent lightning, very heavy rainfall, and small hail. Localized flash flooding will be possible with the stronger storms.

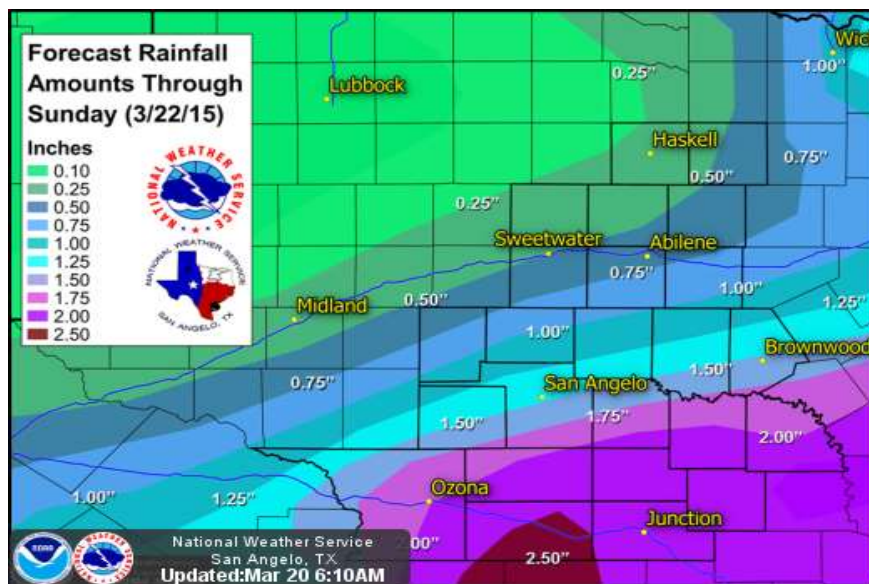






**NWS San Angelo:** Look for showers and thunderstorms to develop tonight. An isolated strong thunderstorm is possible, with the main threat being hail up to the size of a quarter. Lows tonight will mainly be in the 50s. A period of wet weather remains on tap for our area, as an upper level weather system slowly approaches Texas from Mexico. Several rounds of showers and thunderstorms are expected. This precipitation will develop and increase in coverage tonight. The highest rain chance and coverage is expected south of a Sterling City to Brownwood line from today through late Saturday night. Widespread rainfall is expected the next few days across West Central Texas. Rainfall totals in excess of 1 inch are anticipated south of a Sterling City to the Cross Plains line, with locally higher amounts possible, especially across the northwest Hill Country. A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect for the IH10 Corridor today through Saturday. Widespread rainfall of 1-2 inches with locally higher totals of over 3 inches is possible in the watch area.





## Region 6

**NWS Austin/San Antonio:** An upper level disturbance and a cold front interacting with a moist air mass will bring multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms by this afternoon. Heavy rains will create a likelihood of flash flooding this afternoon. High temperatures will range from the upper 60s in the Hill Country to the upper 70s across southern portions of the Rio Grande Plains. An upper level disturbance and a cold front interacting with an unseasonably moist air mass will generate multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms to produce a heavy rain event over South Central Texas today through Saturday night. Rainfall totals will average 2-4 inches with isolated totals greater than 6 inches possible. These rainfall amounts will cause flash flooding as well as rises on area creeks, streams, and rivers.





**Region 2** (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

### DDC 13 – Bryan

**Counties:** Leon, Robertson, Madison, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Washington

DDC 13 is monitoring the impending flood/flash flooding event. The Texas Division of Emergency Management District Coordinator, DDC 13, has provided three updates to all jurisdictions within the DDC as well as American Red Cross, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

### DDC 15 – Beaumont



**Counties:** Jefferson, Hardin, Orange

DDC15 and all local jurisdictions are at normal operations at this time. The DDC continues to monitor local weather and participate in weather conference calls.

**Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 23, 12, 18, and 17)**

**DDC 11/23 – Waco**

**Counties:** Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Mills, San Saba

The DDC is monitoring conditions and maintaining communications with local jurisdictions. A Flash Flood Watch is in effect for Bell, Falls, Freestone, Limestone, and Milam Counties, where 1-3 inches of rainfall, with locally higher amounts in excess of 4 inches are possible.

**DDC 12 – Austin**

**Counties:** Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson

The DDC is monitoring the situation and working with local jurisdictions as needed.

**DDC 18 – AARC/Bexar County**

**Counties:** Bexar, Karnes, Wilson

City of San Antonio Office of Emergency Management (SAOEM): SAOEM held an 11AM webinar conference call with the National Weather Service and partner agencies. Monitoring Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and NWS. SAOEM staff will be on alert throughout this event. City of San Antonio Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) and Bexar County Public Works are preparing resources for standby. Beginning at noon, TCI will operate at Level 4 response which includes 4 barricade trucks through 10PM tonight. After 10PM, another 4 barricade trucks will be out through early morning. One tree crew and 1 debris removal crew on standby for Saturday.

San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) Shift Commander sent message to units to ready swift water rescue equipment. Four on-duty boat teams prepared. Traffic and patrol division is prepared for heavy rain event. Damage assessment team will be on call this weekend for possible storm damage and needs assessment.

**DDC 18 – San Antonio**

**Counties:**

Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall, Comal, Guadalupe, Bandera, Medina, Frio

Nothing to report at this time; however, all jurisdictions are monitoring and will activate if necessary.

## RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

**Texas Task Force 1 (TEEX):** 4 boat squads on standby and air assets with swift water rescue capabilities and personnel.

**Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):** Highway Patrol Troopers are monitoring statewide and maintaining contact with partners. DPS Aviation has 1 helicopter with boat team commander available for situational awareness.

**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD has alerted Statewide SAR team and pre-staged 2 rescue boats and crews are alerted and on standby in Central and South Texas.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** TxDOT crews will be monitoring low-water crossings and are prepared to address any debris on the highways. To see current road conditions, please review [www.DriveTexas.org](http://www.DriveTexas.org).

**Texas Military Forces (TMF):** Monitoring the situation.

**American Red Cross (ARC):** American Red Cross will have a representative at the SOC as long as required. In addition, ARC is taking the following proactive actions in advance of this event:

- Coordinating readiness actions with key local emergency managers
- Placing volunteers on standby in targeted risk areas
- Placing all Texas ERVs on alert
- Placing SWARM Disaster Response Management Team C on Standby

## STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Resource Kind and Type	Quantity	Number of Personnel	Status	Resource Location
TTF1 - Boat squads	2		On standby	San Antonio
TTF1 - Boat squads	2		On standby	College Station
DPS Aviation - Air Assets w/swift water rescue capabilities	2	4	On standby	
TPWD - Rescue boats	2		On standby	Central & South TX

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The State Operations Center (SOC) held a potential heavy rainfall event conference call with the National Weather Service and State agency representatives at 2PM yesterday evening and 10AM this morning. An 8PM conference call is scheduled for tonight. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed. The SOC increased its activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) effective at noon this afternoon for a partial activation.

**The four levels of SOC activation are:**

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem).*

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